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PATENT

Attorney Docket No.: SSI-00700

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

An apparatus for supercritical processing and non-supercritical processing of a workpiece comprises a transfer module, a supercritical processing module, a non-supercritical processing module, and a robot. The transfer module includes an entrance. The supercritical processing module and the non-supercritical processing module are coupled to the transfer module. The robot is preferably located within the transfer module. In operation, the robot transfers a workpiece from the entrance of the transfer module to the supercritical processing module. After supercritical processing, the robot then transfers workpiece from the supercritical processing module to the non-supercritical processing module. After the non-supercritical processing, the robot returns the workpiece to the entrance of the transfer module. Alternatively, the non-supercritical processing is performed before the supercritical processing.

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